Speaking and Writing English Effectively topic 17

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Some parents promise to break the cycle of drug abuse and crime so that their children are brought up with a more hopeful future

Many of the stories we see, hear or read about in regards to heroin, focus on young people struggling to cope with addiction. There is an inordinate number of teenagers hooked on heroin, however, we sometimes forget that older people are also afflicted by heroin. Many are long-time users: some have families and some are in full-time employment, others live by any means they can.

"Jenny", whose father was addicted to heroin, wrote a Letter to the Editor of the *Springfield Sun* in which she describes the desperation of his situation. Click here to read that letter. Even though Jenny is quite restrained for most of the letter, towards the end she says, "You should all be ashamed of yourselves for showing so little compassion and very little depth of character." Are her views more or less persuasive because of this statement?

In this video Jenny discusses her father's heroin addiction and how she believes that a SIF could have saved his life. Consider whether her statements may influence people to support SIFs.

YOUR SAY

Daughter's drug plea

AS the daughter of parents who have been on and off heroin all my life, I find most letters written on this issue are uneducated, heartless and blatantly narrow-minded.Heroin addicts are not evil or scum. They are generally good people who have got into a very sad situation.

My father was a talented musician and composer who contributed a lot his field during his lifetime. He was funny, warm and loving. He died in the public toilet of a hotel because they had no room for him in rehab and he had nowhere else to go. If injecting rooms were available he might still be here today.

People seem to be avoiding the issue that our loved ones are dying, due mainly to heroin's widespread availability and insufficient support systems. As for those who say there are more worthy illnesses to deal with and that heroin

users bring it on themselves, if your parents smoked cigarettes all their life and then got cancer, do they deserve no treatment because it was their choice?

If your son got drunk and crashed his car, does he deserve to die?

We all make mistakes and bad choices. This just makes us human.The bottom line is: it doesn't matter how someone is dying, it just matters that they are.

It could be your parent, child or friend wasting away before you. How would you feel? Would they deserve help then? You should all be ashamed of yourselves for showing so little compassion and very little depth of character.

Name withheld,

Springfield